

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 07574 302250Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-11

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PRS-01 H-03 RSR-01 /081 W

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R 302200Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1075

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 7574

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: PRESENT APPRECIATION OF POLITICAL SITUATION IN
VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS

REF: A. CARACAS 7525 B. CARACAS 6865 (LIMDIS)

1. UPON MY DEPARTURE THIS EVENING FOR A MONTH'S HOLIDAY IN ITALY, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT ALTHOUGH THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN IN VENEZUELA IS WARMING UP, LUCKILY THERE ARE AS YET NO REPEAT NO ANTI-AMERICAN ACCENTS IN THE CAMPAIGN OTHER THAN THE OCCASIONAL AND REPEATED STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDRO-CARBONS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF SPEEDING UP NATIONALIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

2. I WAS RELIEVED (REF A) THAT OUR BIG COMPANIES, DESPITE THEIR FEARS, HAD NOT YET REALLY HAD THE BITE PUT UPON THEM. I WAS ALSO ENCOURAGED IN A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION TODAY WITH SENATOR TEJERA PARIS (WHO WAS FOR SIX YEARS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON) WHEN HE TOLD ME THAT ON EITHER SIDE, WHETHER COPEYANO, ADECO OR EVEN THE MORE LEFTIST PARTIES, HE HAD NOT DISCERNED ANY ANTI-AMERICAN THRUST. TEJERA PARIS LAUDED MY PROGRAM OF HAVING LUNCHEONS FOR POLITICAL LEADERS AND SAID BY ALL MEANS WHEN I RETURNED AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER I SHOULD SEE JOSE VIENTE RANGEL. I REPLIED THAT I HAD ALREADY INVITED RANGEL BUT THAT BECAUSE OF A CONFLICT IN HIS SPEAKING SCHEDULE MY LUNCHEON INVITATION HAD NOT YET BEEN ACCEPTED.

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3. SOMEWHAT TO MY SURPRISE SENATOR TEJERA PARIS SAID THAT NO MATTER WHO WAS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA HE WOULD OF NECESSITY HAVE TO GET ALONG WITH THE UNITED STATES; AND HE THOUGHT THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH EITHER LORENZO FERNANDEZ OR CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ WOULD, ALTHOUGH BUMPY, EVENTUALLY BE GOOD.

4. TEJERA PARIS CONFIRMED WHAT I HAD ALREADY CONCLUDED FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCE THAT THIS WAS THE MOST DIFFICULT POST AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR COULD HAVE RECEIVED IN RECENT YEARS (I ADDED 42 YEARS) BUT THAT HIS OVERALL JUDGMENT WAS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND VENEZUELA AT THE PRESENT TIME WERE THE BEST THEY HAVE BEEN IN A DECADE. COMMENT: OUR OIL COMPANIES WOULD DOUBT THIS, BUT I ALSO DOUBT IF THEY ARE BETTER OFF ELSEWHERE.

5. AS THE ARABS SAY, IN'SHALLAH.
MCCLINTOCK

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